



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - June 7, 2002**

**National higher education expert featured at public forum**

**OLYMPIA** - Pat Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, will be the guest speaker at a public forum on higher education Tuesday at Highline Community College in Des Moines.

Callan's latest publication, "Losing Ground: A National Status Report on the Affordability of American Higher Education," summarizes crucial national trends in higher education financing and affordability.

The report's core argument is that states must act to break the "cycle of erosion" that affects higher education funding. During good economic times, states actively support higher education and keep tuition increases modest, while recessions result in substantial budget cuts and rapid tuition increases.

The paper asserts this cycle negatively affects both higher education institutions and families. Institutions face significant instability in their budgets and families whose budgets already are stretched by recessions face rapid tuition increases, as well.

"Losing Ground" suggests that states adopt higher education policies that would end this cycle. The publication argues for:

- Strategic thinking about college and university programs;
- Moderate and gradual tuition increases tied to changes in family income; and
- The importance of need-based aid programs that protect low-income students from rising educational costs.

Before he formed the Public Policy Center in 1998, Callan served as executive director of higher education commissions in Washington, California and Montana, and has advised many education boards, legislative committees and governor's offices. He helped to develop the Higher Education Coordinating Board's 2000 Master Plan for Higher Education, and worked with Gov. Gary Locke's 2020 Commission on the Future of Higher Education. In the mid-1980s, he was the vice president of the Education Commission of the States.

The public forum will be held at Highline Community College in Des Moines. Co-sponsored by the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), the forum will feature Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Senate Higher Education Committee chair, and Rep. Phyllis Kenney, House Higher Education Committee, as moderators.

Other participants include members of the House Appropriations Committee, the Senate Ways and Means Committee, college and university leaders, and representatives from the HECB and the SBCTC.

The report is available on the Internet at  
<[http://www.highereducation.org/reports/losing\\_ground/ar.shtml](http://www.highereducation.org/reports/losing_ground/ar.shtml)>

**Who:** Pat Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education; state legislators; college and university leaders; HECB and SBCTC representatives

**What:** Public forum on higher education

**Where:** Highline Community College  
2400 S. 240<sup>th</sup> St., Des Moines, Wash.  
Building 7 Auditorium

**When:** Tuesday, June 11  
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

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